

# ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE AND VIRGINIA ADVERTISER.



ALEXANDRIA, VA.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30.

**THE OLD YEAR.**—The sands in the hour glass of Time, for this year, are running low. One more day after this, and a New Year will dawn upon us to follow its course in the cycle of ages. For all the blessings bestowed upon us by the Almighty, in the past, let us be profoundly grateful—and then we shall be the better enabled to look hopefully forward to the future. The revolving years bring, to every one, trials and sorrows, but the darkest clouds have their "silver linings," and unnumbered mercies accompany us through life.

But this time has its lessons—this season has its admonitions. We are separating daily from those whom we have loved, and our successors will soon speak of us as we now speak of those who have gone before us. Would then, at the close of this year, at this stage in the journey of life, we might all pause and look back at the past, and looking back, be willing to bury forever every harsh word we may have uttered, every unkind thought we may have entertained, every unjust feeling we may have harbored, towards any human being, even towards those whom we may think may have been unjust to us.

Let us knit together stronger than ever the ties of ancient friendship, and delight in forming new ones. This is the offering we should make upon the altar we raise to the Supreme Being, who in the shape of Humanity came to proclaim and finally establish, "Peace and Good Will" among and towards Men. To resolve thus, would be a happy close of the Old Year, and a happy preparation for the New Year.

**THE STATE DEBT.**—As a matter of general interest, and as expressive of the opinion of one on the spot, and who has ample opportunity for knowing of what he speaks, we append the following extract from a letter of a prominent member of the House of Delegates, on the Debt question:

"There seems to be in some sections of the country an apprehension that Virginia will repudiate her State debt, because of the recent action of the Legislature. I am confident that there is no foundation for the fear. The action of the Legislature in the failure to pay the January interest, while it is to be deplored, is no indication that when they re-assemble they will declare that there is no obligation resting upon the State to pay the debt which has been justly incurred. The Legislature in the course they have pursued were laboring under the erroneous impression that there could not be a sufficient amount of money collected by the present rate of taxation to meet the interest upon the debt, and the idea was so prevalent that the people would not stand an increased rate, that the Legislature hesitated to pay even the interest there was due. It has, however, been demonstrated of late that the interest can be met without any, or a very slight increase of taxation, and there can be no doubt that the January interest will be paid soon after the re-assembling of the General Assembly. The idea of repudiating meets with no favor in this State, and I have yet to hear the legislator who declares that he would advocate such a course. I believe that the majority of the people throughout the State are utterly opposed to any measure that will bring discredit upon the State, and I am sure that the future action of the Legislature will put away all misgivings as to the willingness of the State to pay all it justly owes."

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun says:—"Advice from New York represent that the policy of Secretary Boutwell in continuing his sales of gold, and decreasing his purchase of bonds for the present month, has had the effect to create a stringent money market, and to lock up twenty millions of currency. While it is true that there is a stringent money market, the amount of currency on hand in the treasury is exaggerated. The currency balance to-day showed an average condition, being a little in excess of ten millions, while the coin balance, including coin certificates, was as high as a hundred and ten millions. This will of course be reduced by the January interest, on Monday, next, twenty-four millions. One reason why no more bonds have been purchased this year is because the whole amount allowed by law for the sinking fund has been absorbed. Owing to the low premium on gold, the lowest point reached since the passage of the legal tender act, it is said to be an open question at the treasury as to whether the bond-purchasing and gold-selling policy shall be continued with the new year."

Accounts from Utah state that tremendous storms have prevailed in the mining districts of Little and Big Cottonwood. Whole settlements are buried in the snow and lives have been lost. The snow is from ten to fifteen feet deep, and operations in most of the mines have been suspended. The weather continues a succession of snow, hail and rain storms. The snow blockade is causing much distress by increasing the price of necessities. Coal is from ten to twenty dollars per ton, in Salt Lake city.

One of the most important politico-commercial projects of the age is the connection of the Black and Caspian seas by means of a ship canal. The construction of this canal, which is intended to admit vessels of the largest class, will, it is said, be begun in the ensuing spring. When completed this enterprise will open the Caspian sea to the world. The length of the canal will be three hundred and seventy miles. Six years will be required to finish it, and the estimate of its cost is from eighty to a hundred millions of dollars.

The Richmond correspondent of the Baltimore American writes that Gov. Walker will veto the bill suspending the operations of the Funding act, but that it will be again passed by a two-thirds majority. Richmond business men are unalterably opposed to it in any form and fully aware of the harm it will do the State.

A dispatch from Chicago says that "the special Grand Jury empaneled to investigate the charges of bribery and corruption against certain members of the Common Council of that city, have found true bills against Aldermen McGrath and Glade, also against ex-Aldermen Montgomery and Walsh, and recommend that all be placed under heavy bonds. The work of the Grand Jury is but partially accomplished. It is expected that every guilty member will be indicted, and this will wipe out half the Board."

In the new commercial treaty between Italy and the United States, the doctrine of the perfect immunity of private property on the seas, except contraband of war, from seizure and confiscation is recognized. The New York Tribune says there is every prospect of this doctrine being also agreed upon between our government and that of Germany.

If the letter of Mr. Greeley now published, in relation to the Presidency, be genuine, it shows that two months ago, to say the least of it, he might be called, "sufficiently strong in opposition to Gen. Grant." What he experienced of two months may have effected we do not know.

Three persons were killed by the explosion at Harrington's sawing and planing mill in Baltimore yesterday, besides several severely injured. The mill was entirely destroyed. The accident was mentioned in our telegraphic dispatch yesterday.

There is a report in England that some of the leaders of the moderate Liberals in Parliament, are seeking to form a coalition with the moderate Tories in order to defeat Mr. Gladstone.

The Richmond Whig of yesterday says:—"When the Legislature adjourned, after passing a joint resolution, suspending funding, it was supposed the process of funding would cease at once. So far from it, the operation appears to have been punished with augmented momentum."

As reported yesterday, William M. Tweed, of New York, reappeared, surrendered himself, and resigned his office of Commissioner of Public Works.

The touching letter of Queen Victoria in relation to her son's late illness, will excite the sympathy of her own people, and of kind-hearted people everywhere.

A young man, named Ripley clerk, in the Bank of New York, killed himself yesterday with a pistol. He was supposed to be insane.

The Government offices in Washington will be closed on New Year's Day.

## VIRGINIA NEWS.

A dispatch from Prince Edward county dated Dec. 28, says:—"A negro named Abram Bayley, alias Calhoun, committed an outrage in this county to-day on a respectable white girl thirteen years old, taking her by force from her mother's house. A posse has started in pursuit of the fiend."

The first exhibition and sale of stock of the Central Stock Company, Staunton, Va., on Wednesday, the 27th, argues well for the success of the enterprise. There were about 30 head of fine horses and mules, 20 head of good cattle, about the same number of sheep and about 40 head of hogs, exposed for sale.

There are rumors that the gamblers in Richmond will average themselves in a notable way for the recent raids upon them and their establishments. They claim that they have "the dead-wood" on a certain party, and that they intend to "go for him."

Gov. Walker and wife left Richmond yesterday, for Philadelphia in consequence of the receipt of a telegram announcing the dangerous illness of the Governor's brother. The New Year's reception at the Executive Mansion will, in consequence, be omitted.

Several colored men have been arrested in Lynchburg suspected of having been concerned in robbing and murdering a colored man. The charge against them is made by colored people.

A young lady from Summit Point, died a few days ago in Winchester, from having taken poison.

**SECTULAR HOLIDAYS.**—A certain Rev. Dr. Tupper is credited with being the author of the apology for Christmas holidays, conveyed in the common line, "For Christmas comes but once a year," and, indeed, we have heard it seriously argued that the holiday needs all the apology which human indulgence can give it. An ingenious friend of ours makes a serious matter of it and professes to find in fire crackers, frolic and burlesque, a fit subject for complaint. Nor is he altogether alone in the opinion, though bolder than most people to avow it. For who of us, but is conscious of a sneaking desire that the Christmas week were gone and all the play at pleasure-making ended? Who of us, being past the days of childhood, but thinks of a public holiday as party goes and party gives too, are apt to think of that dreary day, a party, long expected indeed, but gladly dismissed when it is over?

The truth seems to be that the people of this country, capable of many things, are incapable of making holiday. We are too hard, or too busy, or too thoughtful, it may be, to take pleasure merely for pleasure's sake without the aid of excitement.

Whatever the cause, the fact remains that we are secretly impatient of devoting as much as a day or two to rest and innocent enjoyment and every man will have some friend to whom to say, to-morrow, in strict confidence, that he hails with far greater delight the day that ends than the one which began the week which is our modern Saturnalia.—*Petersburg Index.*

## NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the Times."

In the trial of Mrs. Wharton at Annapolis yesterday, the witnesses examined were Miss Jennie Mayer, Capt. H. F. Brewster and Prof. R. S. McCulloch. The former testified as to Mrs. Wharton's character, the latter as to several experiments which he made with chloral and gelsemium, in which he produced similar results to those produced by Dr. Aiken in his analysis; he also gave as his opinion that the analysis of Dr. Aiken was insufficient and radically defective, and that the analysis of Prof. Toney proved nothing whatever as to the presence of antimony.

Secretary Boutwell has notified Collectors of Customs that the rules in regard to appointments in the Civil Service of the Government will take effect on Monday next, on and after which time promotion and appointments are to be made in accordance with the rules prepared by the Civil Service Commission and approved by the President. The rules will also be applied to all Postmasters hereafter appointed whose salaries amount to \$200 per annum or over.

At Columbia, S. C., in the U. S. Circuit Court, yesterday, the following Ka-Klux prisoners pleaded guilty, and were sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment and \$100 fine: Henry C. Warlick, Miles Carroll, Eli Ross Stuart, Josiah Martin and Samuel Brown. The trial of Dr. Avery, charged with conspiracy to prevent colored men voting in October, 1872, and to punish them for voting October, 1870, then began.

We mentioned a few days ago, the theft of more than \$50,000 in U. S. bonds, stolen at mid-day in the open street in New York by three thieves from an old and prominent lawyer. Yesterday morning a similar robbery took place in the same street, and probably by one of the same party of Wall street thieves.

The venerable Paul Lyons, the oldest man in Middle county, Ala., and perhaps one of the oldest in the Southwest, died on Thursday week. He was born in Savannah, Georgia, on the 19th of July, 1790. He was therefore nearly one hundred and eleven years old at the time of his death.

The rumor that the United States frigate Walash had encountered a gale in the Atlantic ocean, and that thirty or forty of her seamen had been washed overboard, is incorrect. At last advices the vessel was at Cadiz, preparing for a cruise to the Mediterranean.

There is trouble about the Alaska seal fisheries. The contract limits the number of seals to be taken to 100,000 per annum. It is charged that the Alaska Commercial Company is really killing at the rate of 300,000 seals per annum.

George P. Carr, Parish Judge of St. John the Baptist, Louisiana, committed suicide yesterday at Magnolia, Mississippi, in a fit of temporary insanity. He was a native of Illinois and was aged about 18 years.

The Russian Prince held a reception at Detroit yesterday. He is expected to be in Chicago to-day.

A fire at Little Rock, Arkansas, has destroyed property to the amount of \$100,000. Brigham Young, it is reported, has returned to Salt Lake City.

C. & O. CANAL.—A meeting of the stockholders and Board of Directors of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company was held on Friday at Annapolis. President Clarke read his report. In nearly twenty-two years, extending from August, 1848, to May 30, 1870, the Company had paid accrued debt and interest and dividends, \$234,807 04; while in the eighteen months President Clarke has been in the amount paid to the same creditors is \$411,333 33. A communication also from the President was presented relating to the Washington Branch of the Company. The President also submitted a copy of an advertisement in relation to the suit of W. W. Corcoran, Esq., vs. Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company. On motion of Mr. Merryman, the President was authorized to procure counsel if necessary.

Mr. John P. Poe offered the following resolution:—"That a committee of two, to be named by the chairman of this meeting, together with the Governor of the State, be appointed to consider the several matters embraced in the reports just read by the President and the stockholders, and to report at the adjourned meeting whether any, and if any what, action by legislation or otherwise is desirable or expedient to be taken in the premises."

The resolution was adopted and the committee appointed, as follows. Messrs. John P. Poe and Colonel James G. Barrett, Governor Bowie being chairman.

On motion the meeting adjourned to meet at Annapolis, on Thursday, the 4th of January, 1872.

The total gross earnings on the canal from the 1st of June to the 1st of December, 1871, has been \$746,558.37, and the total expenses for working and maintaining the same in that time, \$322,494.66, showing a net revenue of \$424,063.71.

The total tonnage for the present season, from the 1st of March to the 1st of December, has been \$44,257 tons. This is an increase of 238,530 tons as compared with year 1870.

The general tonnage of other descriptions for the present season to 1st December was 110,238 tons. This, compared with last year, shows an increase of 54,742 tons, or nearly 50 per cent.

The next revenue for the present season, as compared with the year 1870, shows an increase of \$197,186.54.

The expenses of the year 1871 to 1871 to 1st December, as compared with the year 1870, show a decrease of \$47,134.45.

Mr. Clarke, in referring to low stages of water in the canal during seasons of drought, hopes for relief when the Western Maryland Railroad is completed to Williamsport and the connection with the Cumberland Valley Railroad is made, as they will offer new outlets for the Cumberland canal freighted over the canal. Says Mr. Clarke: "When these new channels are open the coal trade of the canal will soon reach from one million to twelve hundred thousand tons, during the season of nine months navigation."

Before the meeting of the stockholders of the Canal Company there was a meeting of the Board of Public Works to decide the course the State should pursue.

**BEECHER ON HOURS OF LABOR.**—In one of his late Sunday sermons, Henry Ward Beecher said:

"There is a tendency among the working class to shorten their hours of labor. I sympathize with this and I abhor it; I sympathize with it in so far as it is one of the signs of advancement among the working classes, of their attempt to aim higher and nobler, and I abhor it in so far as it is tending to make men feel that work is not a good thing for them, that they must shrink in equivalent and enlarge in reward. I don't believe the common people are going to carve out independent fortunes by any combination except hard knocks, and a good many of them during a good many hours of the day. Our fathers did it, and their children must learn that they have got to work hard and long to achieve success. I should be glad to have wages paid for by the hour, by retail rather than by the gross, but if we expect that eight hours a day is going to be all that is necessary for their support, they are wrong. My own impression is that there are very few men that can make enough out of eight hours a day to enable them to educate their children and lift their family far higher than they find it."

## TELEGRAPH NEWS.

[DISPATCHES TO THE GAZETTE.]

### FOREIGN NEWS.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—2 p. m.—The bulletin from Sandringham reports that the rest of the Prince of Wales was at times disturbed last night by pain from the swelling above his hip, but in all other respects his condition continues to improve. The visit of the Queen to Sandringham was not occasioned by the appearance of any dangerous symptoms.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 30.—The Russian steamship Kuman, lying on the Caspian Sea, foundered in a terrible gale, and all on board, including officers, crew and passengers, were drowned. The steamer had one million roubles in treasure on board, which is a total loss.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—The Times' initial review of the year 1871, devotes considerable space to comment on President Grant's message to Congress. The inference is drawn therefrom that the neutrality which the United States has so far maintained with regard to Cuban Affairs may soon be exchanged for a more active policy. To this the Times finds no objection, and even goes so far as to declare, it best that Cuba should be separated from Spain.—The Times makes a forecast of political prospects in America and comes to the conclusion that Grant will certainly be re-elected. Great satisfaction is shown at the victory won by the voters of New York city over their corrupt officials, and the hope is expressed that all who have swindled the city will be brought to justice and to long penalties for their crimes.

### From New York.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—A run off on the Erie road near Hackensack junction yesterday evening made a complete wreck of an engine and seriously injured the fireman, Van Buren.

A Wall street broker named Charles G. Allen has taken legal proceedings before Judge McCunn against Fisk, Jr., and Gould for false imprisonment. Allen charges that his arrest was made to prevent him testifying in matters of which he was competent in reference to the Black Friday transactions and indirectly charges Judge Dowling, who granted the order for Allen's arrest with complicity in that arrest proceedings, which appear to have been taken in 1869. Damages are laid at \$50,000. Fisk and Gould were absent yesterday in Boston. On their return they will be served with an order by Judge McCunn.

A Nassau, N. P., special to the Times says the steamer Florida arrived off that port on the 24th instant, with the loss of her foretopmast. She was towed into port, where she will repair if she cannot obtain coal to proceed to New York. If she obtains coal she will steam to New York without stopping to repair her mast. Nothing is said in the dispatch about her being fired into or captured by Spanish cruisers.

Mayor Hall's journal, the Leader, has been discontinued.

Tweed's son, Richard M. Tweed, yesterday testified in the course of his examination as bondsman for his father that he is worth one million two hundred thousand dollars.

In the examination of sureties for Tweed's bail this morning Young Tweed testified that he owned property valued at a million and a half dollars some of which was decided to him by his father in August and some in November, the present being from love and affection, there being no understanding that he should bail his father.

### From South America.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—Panama papers of the 18th inst. have been received. The bark Hunter, of Kennebec, Maine, captain Brown, from Aspinwall for Boston, was wrecked off the Panama steamer 23d. The crew were saved by the steamer Elise.

Central America is quiet. South America advices to November 27th from Lima, state that ex-President Melgarejo, of Bolivia, was assassinated by his son-in-law in that city. Both were exiles.

The branch bank at Callao was robbed of \$12,000.

Three more earthquake shocks were felt in Acapulco on the 20th and 21st of November. Chili is about sending a military commissioner to Europe to purchase arms and other war material.

### The Trial of Mrs. Wharton.

ANAPOLIS, Md., Dec. 30.—The court met at 10 o'clock. The cross examination of Prof. McCulloch was resumed by Attorney General Seyester and has been continued to the hour of noon. The examination has been of the most rigid and scientific character, testing the chemical knowledge of the witness and the accuracy and value of the experiment, made by him as testified to in his direct examination yesterday. The witness, in all his answers, adheres to the opinions given in his evidence yesterday.

### Mail Robbed.

PORTLAND, ME., Dec. 30.—The mail sent hence to Rockland on the 8th instant was robbed of twenty four checks sent from the pension agency. They have never been recovered. Checks sent to Thomaston are also missing.

### The Pacific Coast.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30.—The rains continue. Over nineteen inches have now fallen. A party of armed and disguised men cut the Battle Creek level near Marysville. Five hundred feet were washed away and Marysville is threatened with a flood.

### Fire.

PORTLAND, ME., Dec. 30.—The variety store of George C. Robinson & Co., in Middle street, was damaged by fire to a large amount last night. Insurance \$28,000.

**QUEEN VICTORIA'S LETTER.**—The London papers publish a letter from the Queen, in which she says that she wishes to express the deep sense of the touching sympathy exhibited for her family by the whole nation at the illness of her dear son, the Prince of Wales. The universal feeling, says the Queen, shown by her people during the painful and terrible days of the Prince's illness, their sympathy with herself and her beloved daughter, the Princess of Wales, and the general joy manifested at the improvement in the health of the Prince, have made a deep and ineffable impression upon her heart.

The manifestations of the people are nothing new to her, for she met with the same sympathy ten years ago, when a similar illness that under which her son is suffering removed the mainstay of her life—the best, wisest and kindest husband that ever lived. Her Majesty says that she also wishes to express the heartfelt gratitude of the Princess of Wales, and concludes her letter with the hope that her faithful subjects will continue to pray for the complete recovery of the Prince.

**EXPLOSION IN THE SUN.**—An exchange says:—"The astronomers say that the late explosion in the sun hurled flying debris to the height of over two hundred thousand miles, and that the huge protuberance which rose some fifteen thousand miles above the "circumference," and subsequently burst, was composed of hydrogen gas. If such an unexpected ebullition as this can take place, who knows what may happen next, or whether another and more tremendous catastrophe may not blow the sun himself to atoms, and relegate us all to "Chaos, and old Night?" The intimate knowledge we are promised of the sun's "corona" would be of little use if followed by such an event as this, and it is to be hoped that the world will soon receive scientific assurance that the recent disturbance was purely of a gaseous or ephemeral order, and not at all likely, to herald the destruction of the solar system."

**CITIES AND COUNTRY.**—There is no solid ground for unkind relations between the people of the country and the people of the city. Their relations, justly considered, are reciprocally advantageous and harmonious. Trade, and competition, and laws suggested by experience, maintain those relations upon as fair and mutually beneficial ground as can well be established.

In respect to the different pursuits, it is a great delusion if the farmer supposes that the "city speculator" makes money easily and easily "by manipulating the market." For the few that do there are thousands that fail and go down to the grave paupers. And yet how few, after all, are "city speculators" in a community of business men?

It is an error, we are satisfied, in representing that in the country the business is done "on a cash basis," while in the towns the trade is "based pretty much on credit." All our knowledge of the country proves to us that credit and confidence prevail wherever there is well ordered industry, and men are trusted until they realize the money for their crops.—Credit is more general in the country than it is in the city. More men in the country, in proportion to population, are trusted, and trusted for a long time, and this is so for good reasons.—It simply because they live in the country, but because their pursuits do not enable them to receive cash at all times, but being it at long intervals. Then, by virtue of education and pursuit, they are creditable and reliable men, and people who have what they want do not hesitate to trust them. It is an honor to the country population that this is so—it is proof of their high civilization that credit and confidence abound amongst the Virginia rural populations.

When we return to the cities, we do indeed find credit entering largely into the management of trade, but the true given is short—shorter than in the country—while for retail transactions cash is the principal element. People living on salaries are expected to pay promptly, and are made to pay. People are not depending on the sale of crops, and are not indebted without reason. Cash is far more an element of business in the city than it is in the country.

But there is no cause for inviolable distinction between the two populations. They are mutually serviceable to one another and to the State. In the matter of taxation they are both remembered by the gatherer of taxes. The countryman has a poor idea of the heavy exactions of the city collector, who either follows or precedes the State collector, and dips deeply into the pockets of the citizens. Look back forty years. The planter then found great difficulty in getting to market, and it was harder for him to pay the light taxes with his tobacco, than it would be now for a farmer to pay his increased taxes with chickens, eggs, and butter, so much more easy is it now for the farmer to get what he has for sale promptly to market, and get the cash for it.

There is no reason for aversion or envy or jealousy between city and country; nor is there any good ground for outcry against taxation. Let us all be cheerful and hopeful. Let us like men determine each to do his duty, maintain his own name for resolution and energy, and do his share towards maintaining the honor and glory of the Commonwealth, and we shall all come out triumphant.—*Richmond Dispatch.*

**A GENEALOGICAL CURIOSITY.**—A genealogical curiosity has appeared in the "History of the Strong Family," which has just been published by Joel Munroe, of Albany, and whose author, the Rev. B. W. Dwight, of Clinton, N. Y., a writer and genealogist, has devoted many years of his life, and given from twelve to fifteen hours of each day to what has evidently been a labor of love. The result is two huge octavos, each containing about eight hundred pages, and in which are enrolled the names of nearly twenty-nine thousand and of the descendants of Elder John Strong and those allied to them by marriage.

The said Elder John, a staunch Puritan, sailed, it appears, from Plymouth, England, in the good ship Mary and John, on the 20th of March, 1630, accompanied by one hundred and forty fellow pilgrims, among whom were several clergymen. He landed at Nantasket, (Hull), Massachusetts, and after short sojourns at Dorchester, Hingham, Tammam and Windsor, finally established himself at Northampton, in that State, where he lived for forty years, a prosperous man of business and a doughty pillar of the church, as his title implies.

From John Strong, a pilgrim, all wearing the name to the North, with but two exceptions, are said to be descended. This pious and stalwart old man, who was twice married, was blessed with eighteen children of whom fifteen arrived at majority and followed the Biblical precept to "multiply and replenish the earth." Nine of these reached three score and ten, and six of them touched or verged upon the nineties. Before he died, at the age of ninety-four, the Elder John could count one hundred and sixty descendants, of whom thirty-three at least were his great-grandchildren.

The baptismal names in this record evince the strong puritan current which has descended in the family from generation to generation. For example: Genubath, Ephraim, Arundel, Hopland, Hilarus, Melad, Ozen, Gephil, Asenath, Perilla, Zedina, Azulez, Glaspion, Emnette, Tirzah, Sabra, Arvid, and Deidam. Then, too, we find Penelope, Experience, Remembrance, Patience, Waitstill, Retire, Rebecca, Isaac, Supply, Wealthy, Pardon and Solant.

**MRS. GENERAL SICKLES.**—The New York Sun says of Mrs. Sikkles number two:—"She is of the middle height and delicately formed. Her eyes are black and lustrous, the eyebrows beautifully arched, and the eyelashes long and curved. The face indicates a gentle and lovable disposition. The hair is of deepest black. Mrs. Sikkles does not speak English, but she converses in French with ease. Her manner is quiet and self-possessed, and her voice low and sweet. She and General Sikkles converse in Spanish."

The Cincinnati Enquirer has the following:—"General Sikkles has a penchant for foreign wives. His first mate was an Italian, and now he has taken unto himself a Spanish bride, Senorita Carolina Guerrero, better known by the name of de Creagh, her mother's name by a second marriage. A friend in Washington writes: "What is there in a name? The truth about Dan Sikkles' bride is, she is the daughter of a poor Spanish widow, who, to better her fortunes, married a rich Scotch trader by the name of Joseph Craig. He was a sort of commercial traveler and after he had made a snug fortune out of the Dons of Cadiz dropped the 'pl' and tacked a 'de' and double 'e' to his name, and came to Madrid a Spanish Senor. It is a way not uncommon to Americans when they go abroad, and right here in the republic metropolitan, there are plenty of names so Frenchified and Tontoonicked that the first hearers thereof will never answer to them when at the Day of Judgment their names are called."

**TENTING THE TOPERS.**—While the new market house at the corner of Thirteenth and Walnut streets, Louisville, was in process of erection a bottle of whiskey was sent up to a brick-mason, who after taking a drink left it on a table and placed the bottle with the rest of the beverage in the vacant place, where it still is. Half of it can be seen projecting from the hole, at once tempting and tantalizing the toppers who pass the spot. A few feet distant a golden is arranged in a similar way. It was the intention that these should not be removed unless perchance the building should be in danger of burning, but some thirsty soul will doubtless get hard for a drink, and, procuring a ladder, climb up to the bottle under cover of darkness and enjoy its contents at the reward of his daring. It would not be a slight feat, however, as the prize is placed at the height of about fifty feet.

**WASHINGTON ITEMS.**—Yesterday a woman named Shen, shot and killed a policeman, who attempted to arrest her on a charge of receiving stolen property. She first attempted to stab an officer, but failed. The officer was then reinforced by a brother officer, and upon the latter attempting to arrest her she shot him in the head, causing his death in a few moments. The woman was finally overpowered and locked up in the station house.

A man named William Smith, aged about forty-five years, residing at No. 402 Thirteenth street, near H, died suddenly yesterday morning, from heart disease. Deceased was a German, and recently resided at Ocean View.

Preparations for the social observance of New Year's day are everywhere with the community. All the public officers, a large number of leading citizens, and a vast number of less social importance will open their houses to callers on that day. The reception at the executive mansion will follow the usual custom.

### GRAIN & FLOUR.

ALEXANDRIA MARKET, Dec. 30.—Receipts of Wheat are light, and the market closed dull at yesterday's quotations. Offerings of 122 bushels red and 20 of white, with sales of the former at 150 for good, and of the latter at 138 for choice. Corn is unchanged; offerings of 57 bushels mixed, with sales at 64, 65 and 67. Oats are firm; sales of 66 bushels at 52 and 53. Rice in light receipt; no sales reported.

**Flour Importers' Report.**—The following is the report of the flour imported during the fourth quarter of the year, ending October, 1871, by L. T. Anthony, Flour Inspector, to the U. S. Customs: Flour, 50,000; Superfine, 11,000; fine, 18,000; middlings, 18,000; 24,000; 10,000; 1,000; 2,000; 1,000; 1,000.

### BY TELEGRAPH.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—Stocks strong and active. Gold steady at 150. Money 6 per cent. 7 gold, Virginia 5 per cent. 70. Flour dull and unchanged. Wheat quiet and unchanged. Corn dull and unchanged.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 30.—Cotton unchanged. Flour steady and in demand. Wheat quiet and unchanged. Corn dull and unchanged. Rice in light receipt; no sales reported.

### RECEIVED.

By Rev. T. Hemmell on the 21st of December, Mr. JOHN J. O'LEARY and Miss HENRIETTA O'LEARY, of London.

December 28th, by the same, Mr. JOHN T. SLACK and ANN E. O'LEARY, of St. Paul, Patagonia county.

### DEATH.

On Friday afternoon, after a short illness, ROBERT WILSON, infant son of Thomas L. and Julia Wilson, infant son, 16 months. The funeral will take place from his father's residence, "Warwick," on Monday morning at 10 o'clock.

I am informed that yesterday morning, by order of the Mayor, a citizen of the U. S. and a stranger here, was whipped without legal authority, and in direct defiance of law. It is strange that our courts should stand by and permit such things to be done, and stranger still that the City Council of Alexandria has taken no steps to put a stop to this illegal exercise of authority. It is